

**JAMES W. GERARD STOPS HERE**



The former Ambassador to Germany, who was recalled at the breaking off of diplomatic relations, spent the night in Philadelphia while bound for New York, where he will be given a big reception today.

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**GERARD DIDN'T SEE BOY-ED IN BERLIN**

Ex-Envoy, in Philadelphia, Hugs Mysterious Bag and Guards Tongue

**LEAVES FOR NEW YORK**

Ambassador James W. Gerard, American envoy to Germany until President Wilson broke off diplomatic relations, talked to newspaper men here today before he boarded the 11 o'clock Reading express for New York. He had spent the night at the Bellevue-Stratford.

Asked about Captain Boy-Ed's reported visit to Philadelphia he first pleaded ignorance and then turned the question into a laugh as he did nearly every other. Asked as to the probability of Captain Boy-Ed having come here he said, "How do I know?" but readily admitted it was possible for Boy-Ed to be "either" here or in Berlin. Mr. Gerard did say though that he had not seen Boy-Ed after returning to his post in Berlin after a brief visit to the United States last fall, leaving the inference that Boy-Ed might have been absent from Germany all that while.

There were many things the former Ambassador would not talk about; among them, Russia. He said he wasn't able to discuss that country, anyway, and refused to say whether he thought either of the belligerent sides could extract any special comfort out of the revolution there.

It was about 10:10 o'clock when Mr. Gerard left his suite at the Bellevue-Stratford and entered the lobby. He had reached the hotel after last midnight, and one of the first questions put to him was why he had come to Philadelphia, the information sought being why he had not taken a train direct from Washington to New York.

**AN ELUSIVE LAUGH**

"Oh, now," he said, "that's not a bit clever of you. Why don't you ask me why I'm going away?"

Mr. Gerard treated most questions in that manner. His laugh is a ready one, and if a newspaperman counts for anything his health and disposition may be rated at 100 per cent. He spoke of his cold.

"Well, do you expect that celebration New York is giving in your honor today will help it?"

"You said it," he replied. "I'm afraid it will help it, not cure it."

The diplomat was asked "about 'that famous remark' he was reported to have used when a German official threatened to hold American correspondents as hostages if he did not sign a certain treaty. 'Was it true?'"

"What famous remark?" he asked.

"When you told Count Montgelas you'd 'let there till hell froze over.'"

"Yes, I said it," he answered, not without a grin.

"Is that counted as diplomatic language abroad?"

"They understood it."

Mr. Gerard said he had a long talk with President Wilson last night, which was the reason he did not get to bed here sooner, but he would not give an inkling of what passed between them. The President is feeling well again, he volunteered.

The group was broken up so that Mr. Gerard could go to the cashier and pay his bill. He had that much advertised for with a strap slung over his shoulder; he said he was used to carrying it and needed no help.

"We've all read that your bag was black. What happened to it?"

"Oh," he laughed, "it got sunburnt when I was in Cuba."

A New York clergyman stopped to introduce himself, and then Mr. Gerard made an "smiling exit" to the street, where a taxi was waiting. He posed for the photographers and listened to the questions he wouldn't answer. He seemed to enjoy seeing how many he could turn into a laugh.

It was more than a half hour to train time, but he said he didn't mind waiting at the station.

Once there, he walked around in the train shed, bought a few magazines and saw to his Pullman seats. There were no detectives to take care of him, but he seemed perfectly satisfied and able to care for himself. He remembered that he had left two overcoats at the hotel and sent Frank Hall, who was one of his under secretaries in Berlin, back to fetch them.

"It pays to be provident," he said, commenting on his early arrival at the station. He talked further while he waited for the gates to open, recalling some of the instances when diplomatic relations were broken. He confirmed the stories that his messages, both open and in code, had been entirely held up, but said there had been a complete absence of public excitement. The news of the break was withheld from the German public for a day, he said. The reports that he had been robbed in Havana by a German were untrue, he said.

**GOWING TRANQUIL AS BATTLE RAGES**

Undisturbed by His Election as Principal of Girls' High School

**SHALLCROSS PASSES LIE**

While the battle between the pro-Gowing and anti-Gowing members of the Board of Education has been raging for the last four days, the principal in the affair, Dr. Fred Gowing, has been up-State attending the deathbed of one brother and the sickbed of another—entirely unconscious, he said this afternoon, of the facts that his speedy election to the principalship of the Girls' High School as Miss Katharine E. Puncheon's successor caused.

Miss Puncheon resigned because she is soon to be married. Her resignation did not go through the hands of Dr. John F. Garber, Superintendent of Schools, but was kept secret from him, as well as from Dr. Edward Martin, member of the Board of Education. Out of this secrecy and the so-called "railroading" of Doctor Gowing into the office, without consideration of other capable candidates, grew the quarrel between Doctor Martin and Simon Gratz, and other members of the Board, whom Doctor Martin accused of electing Doctor Gowing purely on the grounds of personal friendship.

Back in his office in the Stephen Girard Building today, Doctor Gowing expressed his total ignorance not only of the controversy, but also of any previous knowledge of his election before that event took place.

"I had no idea of Miss Puncheon's resignation," he said. "I did not know that I had been nominated to succeed her. I did not even know that I had been elected until Mrs. Gowing called me on the long-distance one night when I was in Scranton at the Hotel Casey."

"So, as I haven't had time to go into this fuss and don't know what it is all about, I shan't comment on it. But," he added whimsically, "if anybody believes that I am merely a book agent, he is mistaken. I am a classicist. I have had a classical education, and I am prepared to carry out the ideals and traditions that have been in vogue at the Girls' High School. However, I haven't even accepted the job yet."

"But you are going to?" he was asked.

"The natural presumption is that I shall," he replied.

"Does that mean that you will resign your position with the D. C. Heath Publishing Company?"

"The natural presumption is that I shall," he reiterated.

In the meantime the "fuss" was further augmented by a charge of untruth on the part of Doctor Martin made by Thomas Shallcross, member of the Board of Education and one of Doctor Gowing's supporters. Mr. Shallcross referred to the accusation made by Doctor Martin that Miss Puncheon had conspired with Mr. Gratz in keeping secret her resignation, an accusation that Doctor Martin retracted yesterday after visiting Miss Puncheon.

Mr. Shallcross spoke heatedly. "I know that Doctor Martin is himself an educator of wide reputation," he said. "I fully recognize his high position in the scientific world, but I cannot help saying, in spite of the distinction that he enjoys, that he spoke an untruth. I cannot say it too emphatically. He spoke an untruth. Whether it was due deliberately or not I do not know."

"The best proof of the fact that Doctor Martin was wrong when he accused me and other members of the Board of Education of conspiring with Miss Puncheon, is the fact that he wrote to Miss Puncheon, retracting his charges."

Doctor Martin is a brother of Judge J. Willis Martin, president of Common Pleas Court No. 5. He was formerly Director of the Department of Health and Charities and has for many years occupied the chair in genito-urinary surgery in the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania.

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**CALWELL LEADS MOVE TO USE WASTED LAND**

Banker Joins Northeast Vegetable Growers in Agricultural Preparedness Work

A movement to utilize all tillable land in the city has been started as a means of bringing down the cost of living and preparing for war.

The appointment of a municipal farm agent to supervise the extracting of all possible foodstuffs from Philadelphia soil is proposed by the leaders of the movement. These include Charles S. Calwell, president of the Core Exchange National Bank, and officials of the Vegetable Growers' Association of Bustleton, composed of more than 200 farmers and vegetable growers in the far northeast section of the city. The association will begin a campaign for a farm agent March 20, using the rooms of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce as headquarters.

Councils will be asked to appropriate \$3000 for the expenses of the farm agent, whose salary would be paid jointly by the Federal and State governments out of a

fund given for the purpose to the Pennsylvania State College.

"Agricultural preparedness is important," said Mr. Calwell. "In case of war our aim and object should be to prevent a shortage in foodstuffs. This can be done through farm agents, thirty of which already have been appointed in Pennsylvania counties. City folks should not hesitate, but do all they can to further the project. Half of the land in Philadelphia is fertile and tillable. The city has 1000 acres at Byberry. When we obtain a farm agent here my idea would be to have this place made Philadelphia's model farm."

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